

CATEGORY: Consent

DEPT.: Public Works

TITLE: Hetch-Hetchy Trail, Design and Construction, Project 02-27—Approve Plans and Specifications and Authorize Bidding

RECOMMENDATION

1. Approve the Negative Declaration of Environmental Impact for the Hetch-Hetchy Trail and find that the Initial Study reflects the independent judgment of the City Council.
2. Approve plans and specifications for Hetch-Hetchy Trail, Design and Construction, Project 02-27, and authorize staff to advertise the project for bids.

FISCAL IMPACT

The Hetch-Hetchy Trail, Project 02-27, is funded in the amount of \$875,000 from Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) fees collected as a condition of approval for the 425,000 square foot Veritas office development at 350 Ellis Street. The project cost estimate is approximately \$871,000 and there are adequate funds to construct the project. The Engineer's Estimate for construction is \$600,000, including a construction contingency of \$50,000.

The balance of the Veritas TOD fees, approximately \$355,000, will fund a separate project to construct median islands on Ellis Street as programmed in the approved 2003-04 CIP.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

On April 10, 2001, the City Council approved the Hetch-Hetchy Trail feasibility study. The Hetch-Hetchy Trail is a bicycle/pedestrian trail along the Hetch-Hetchy right-of-way owned by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), between North Whisman Road and Whisman Park, at Easy Street. The proposed project will complete a major portion of the trail connection between Stevens Creek Trail and the Middlefield light rail station. Pacific Nursery currently occupies the Hetch-Hetchy right-of-way, between North Whisman Road and Tyrella Avenue, and the SFPUC has notified the nursery to make room for the trail.

On September 25, 2001, the City Council approved an engineering and landscape design agreement with Nolte & Associates and authorized the City Manager to execute a permit with the City and County of San Francisco authorizing the trail construction over SFPUC land. However, in January 2003, with plans for the trail improvements nearly complete, SFPUC staff informed the City of plans to market the portion of their property between North

Whisman Road and Tyrella Avenue for residential development. They expressed concern that the trail would conflict with the future development. Design work stopped while staff met with the SFPUC and worked out a compromise whereby minimal trail improvements will be constructed in the area of possible development, and the future developer will reconstruct the trail as part of the development. Landscaping improvements in the area of possible future development include only a wildflower grass mix without irrigation.

The plans were revised to reflect the agreement with the SFPUC and submitted in July 2003 to engineering staff of the SFPUC for review and approval. On July 23, 2003, staff updated the Parks and Recreation Commission of the changes to the trail. The report to the Parks and Recreation Commission is attached (Exhibit A). Comments on the plans were received from the SFPUC in November 2003 and Nolte & Associates incorporated the requested changes. Plans and specifications are now complete.

The revised improvements include a 10' wide paved trail with 2' shoulders, a fence separating the nursery from the trail, a new good neighbor fence where the trail abuts residential property and landscaping and irrigation. Landscaping generally consists of native, low-lying plant material, except the section between Tyrella Avenue and North Whisman Road which includes landscaping meeting the requirements of the SFPUC. The trail crossings at Easy Street and Tyrella Avenue incorporate raised crosswalks to create more visible pedestrian and bicyclist crossings. At Whisman Road, the project includes a pedestrian traffic signal. On the Whisman Park side of Easy Street, the project includes a new section of asphalt pathway to provide a smooth transition from the trail to the existing park pathway.

Negative Declaration

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Assurance Act (CEQA), an Initial Study, including a proposed Negative Declaration (Exhibit B) prepared for this project, indicates there is no substantial evidence of a significant impact on the environment and an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is not required. Therefore, a Negative Declaration is recommended. A Public Notice indicating the City's intention to approve the proposed Negative Declaration (Exhibit C), along with the Initial Study, were filed at the County of Santa Clara Recorder's Office and posted at the project site on December 2, 2003. The public comment period was closed on December 22 and no comments were received.

Construction Schedule

Upon award of the construction contract in February 2004, construction is expected to commence by mid-March and be complete by summer 2004.

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Project Cost

The project cost breakdown for the Hetch-Hetchy Trail, Design and Construction, Project 02-27, is shown below:

Construction	\$550,000
Construction Contingency	50,000
Design Services	118,000
Testing and Inspection	15,000
Project Management/City Engineering	<u>85,000</u>
Subtotal	\$818,000
City Administration (6.5%)	<u>53,000</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$871,000</u>

PUBLIC NOTICING—Agenda posting and public noticing pursuant to CEQA.

Prepared by:

Approved by:

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RSR/9/CAM
999-01-13-04M-E^

Attachments: Exhibit A: Parks and Recreation Commission Report
Exhibit B: Initial Study
Exhibit C: Public Notice

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